



13 February 2002

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Pacific Ocean Division/Honolulu District Capability for Emergency Access or Debris Clearance and Removal

1. Purpose. Provide an overview of Corps of Engineers capability to assist in the event of a collapsed building in Hawaii.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts:

a. Emergency Access for Search and Rescue.

(1) The Pacific Ocean Division (POD) has a Technical Search Specialist (TSS) cadre of 9 persons (4 persons are on island) trained and equipped (remote cameras and listening devices) to locate and recover persons trapped in collapsed buildings. POD also has a Structures Specialists (SS) cadre of 4 persons (stationed in Japan) trained to provide rapid structural assessment and recommended shoring/stabilization of damaged structures to allow safe entry of search and rescue crews. Additional SS teams are located in Seattle, Los Angeles and Anchorage. These teams are available for on or off military installations. Funding must accompany any deployment request.

(2) The TSS and SS teams may be accessed for deployment through the Pacific Ocean Division: Ken Suiso (438-8368), Steve Philben (438-8366), or Tom Brady (438-8362).

b. Emergency Debris Clearance. Neither Pacific Ocean Division nor the Honolulu Engineer District have organic debris clearance or removal capability, nor does the Division/District have any responsibility or authority to conduct debris clearance or removal, except as tasked by FEMA under the Federal Response Plan or other reimbursable entity. To support debris removal taskings the District has in place a contract for debris removal and clearance (Environmental Chemical Corporation of Burlingame, CA). Mobilization to full production will take an estimated 3-5 days. Corps-wide there are 7 Debris Planning and Response Teams (PRT) to provide management and contract oversight. Post event, these PRTs are available to assist the military installation with Debris Management Plans. The PRT and contract are available for use on a military installation, but never have been used on-installation. They are routinely used off-installation under FEMA mission tasking. Funding must accompany any request for assistance.

c. Standing Authority. Under DOD Directive 3025.1 and AR 500-60 commanders, at all levels, are allowed to provide immediate support to civil authorities to save lives and prevent or mitigate human suffering (no contracted support is authorized).

3. The point of contact in this matter is Joel Hendrix, Chief, Emergency Management (808) 438-1275.